

So we, too, want to recognize Don and his accomplishments, and wish him all the best in this new phase of his life. We have no doubt that he will continue to make valuable contributions to our community and to the transportation industry.

HONORING MIAMI-DADE  
FIREFIGHTER LINDA HERNANDEZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the lives of America's fallen heroes. This past weekend, Washington, D.C. was the host of this year's National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Ceremony. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, this year's ceremony held a higher importance as it honored the 343 brave men and women firefighters who died in the terrorist attacks over a year ago. The courage shown by these firefighters embodies the values that we as a society find all too often in our heroes. While these men and women will always be remembered, we must not forget the many other American firefighters who died in the line of duty over the past year.

One such person is Linda Hernandez, a Miami-Dade County firefighter who died September 18, 2001. While attending the firefighting college in Miami, she strived to excel in her duties. While she impressed the other trainees and instructors, Mrs. Hernandez earned the respect of her colleagues when she routinely helped other women through the rigorous physical and mental tests. Mary Giles, a friend of Linda's and a fellow Miami firefighter summed her feelings in the following words: "There were times when we wanted to throw in the towel. But Linda was always there for us. And we became determined that nothing would beat us."

Mrs. Hernandez's life was tragically cut short, just one week after the horrible terrorist attacks on America. Her health problem began on March 28, 1999. In her capacity as a Miami-Dade County firefighter, Mrs. Hernandez had become an expert using the K-12, which is a special saw used to ventilate buildings during a fire. On March 28, 1999, she was using the machinery she had used so many times before when she was enveloped in smoke and left without the use of her oxygen tank. That day she was treated for smoke inhalation and lung damage and given medication to combat the damage. Unfortunately, the medication had the opposite effect, destroying her liver, and necessitating a transplant in June of 2000. However, after a year, her body rejected the transplant and sadly Mrs. Hernandez died of her illness.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Hernandez is one of 446 brave firefighters who died while protecting our families and communities this past year. While we have had time since September 11, 2001 to realize the importance of public servants and the outstanding jobs they often perform, we sometimes forget that these men and women risk their lives every day to make sure we are safe. Mrs. Hernandez left behind her husband, Miami-Dade police Sergeant Paul

Hernandez, and four children. While we join to mourn their loss, we must rejoice in the positive impact that Miami-Dade firefighter Linda Hernandez had on the Miami-Dade community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to clarify that had I not been unavoidably detained yesterday, October 9, 2002, I would have voted "aye" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 448, rollcall No. 449, rollcall No. 450, and rollcall No. 451.

TRIBUTE TO FRED BAKI

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to call my colleagues attention to a remarkable constituent of mine. He is an immigrant from Turkey, who, forty years ago, came to the U.S., became a naturalized citizen and spent many years working in the import/export business. He retired in Florida and now resides in the 6th district. He is one of the Points of Light appointees by President Bush, Senior. His name is Fred Baki.

After retirement, Fred formed a not-for-profit organization to teach adults reading, writing and arithmetic. Since 1989, he and his thirty-three volunteers have been serving U.S. citizens in the educational field.

Several years ago, he and the volunteers developed a system by which long distance instruction could be provided over the telephone. This unusual teaching system is offered to all citizens, wherever they may reside, free of charge.

Three telephone lines are open twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, including weekends and holidays. Now named Cottage Education Corporation, the effort is offering its services to public schools at no cost to the school system.

I think Mr. Baki's long distance teaching and tutoring system is worthy of exploration to be implemented on a larger scale. Should this program prove valuable, it could possibly be implemented throughout the country.

The system includes ten disciplines including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, science, civics, history, geography and biology. It contains a database with one thousand questions and answers. All of the subjects are presently taught in our public schools from the grade school to high school.

HONORING COMMANDER ROBERT  
R. DAVIS

**HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 10, 2002*

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, our country has lost a great American. My good friend, re-

tired U.S. Navy Commander Robert R. Davis, passed away on Oct. 1, 2002, and he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

It was very much a privilege for me to have known Commander Davis for many years. I had the privilege of being with him on several special occasions including the Georgia Pearl Harbor Survivors Association on December 7, 2001 when he kindly asked me to address the survivors on the 60th anniversary of the infamous attacks on our country.

Then on July 19, 2002, I was so proud to have Commander Davis as my special guest when Vice President DICK CHENEY came to Georgia.

The last time I saw Commander Davis was on September 7 of this year when he and his son Jim were hunting in Georgia on the opening day of dove season. On many other memorable occasions he and I were together as friends. He loved his country and strongly supported its military. I always appreciated his wise counsel on defense and other issues.

Robert Roscoe Davis was born on December 16, 1914, in Jacksonville, in Telfair County, Georgia. He joined the United States Navy at age 17, enlisting as a seaman, and made the Navy his career for 28 years. On December 7, 1941, Bob Davis was assigned to the Minesweeper U.S.S. *Oglia* at Pearl Harbor. He was not aboard when the Japanese attack came and the ship was sunk, but later put on a diving suit and went down to try to raise it. He was later commissioned as an officer, rose to the rank of Commander, and was the commanding officer of the USS *Washoe County*, LST 1165. He had assignments all over the world and was commander of the Naval Reserve Training Center on Riverside Drive in Macon when he retired.

Upon his retirement from the United States Navy Commander Davis entered the real estate business and was active in the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 658, and the Macon Exchange Club. His friends and family used the term "Commander" to respectfully address him for the rest of his life.

On Saturday, October 5, 2002, Commander Davis was given a distinguished funeral and a graveside ceremony at Riverside Cemetery in Macon, Georgia, with military honors including a Navy Honor Guard, bugler, and bagpipe player.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Julianne and I express our sadness over the passing of Commander Robert Davis and we send our sincere condolences and best wishes to his loyal family. He was a great American and he will be missed so very much. I think it is most appropriate that I close this tribute to Commander Robert R. Davis with the first verse of the "Navy Hymn."

Eternal Father strong to save, Whose arm  
hath bound the restless wave,  
Who bid'st the mighty ocean deep Its own  
appointed limits keep;  
O hear us when we cry to thee, for those in  
peril on the sea.